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THE ROSHANARA
MERCARA
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I have written this on behalf of myself and on behalf of thousands of our countrymen who think like me, on this matter of national importance which we all know is exercising your mind and of our Prime Minister's considerably. This refers to the spreading disrespect for law and order in the country, thus causing considerable damage to Government property and creating a feeling of insecurity in the minds of our masses. No sane loyal Indian would ever hesitate to condemn every one who is taking the law into his own hands merely to get his imaginary or other grievances redressed unconstitutionally. Should this disease of disorder spread further I feel it will inevitably spell greater disaster to the security of our country and future progress. It is in this context I have written this t

During my wide travels around the country I have had opportunities to discuss these affairs and happenings in our country with a variety of people - politicians, businessmen, those in public life and private individuals. It is the general consensus of opinion, I am one, that unless this continuous sabotage of public property, setting fire to Post Offices, attacking civilians and looting indiscriminately thus compelling the police, who are the guardians of peace in the country, to use force against such marauders, is stopped immediately there will be serious countrywide disorders. I was horrified to read in the newspapers yesterday about the most disgraceful scenes of disturbances in the vicinity of our Parliment House when the rioters are alleged to have burnt over 150 motor cars and scooters. Their attempt to set fire to the house of the Congress President is indeed a very serious matter. Many train services have been cancelled becuase of all these disorderly incidents. Above all the real danger is the possibility of foreign financial aid to our country to the private and public sectors being slowed down or even stopped because of the insecure atmosphere in our country. This will indeed be a very serious set back to our Five Year Plan - a risk which we cannot take.

You may recollect, last year I wrote an article on " India Today". In that article I had suggested there should be President's Rule in India until our next general elections. I had said this would give undisturbed time to the variouspolitical parties to sort out, stabilise, strengthen and streamline their parties, to put up a real healthy contest in the coming elections. I see now most of these regrettable and tragic incidents in the country are said to be organised and put up by some of the opposition. All these seriously interfere with the administrative machinery of the Government and so the common man suffers. He is beginning to lose faith in the Government. President's Rule in every State stricken with disease of Bundhs, strikes, hunger strikes and so on and enforce Martial Law in all such states, seems to me and to the thousands of intelligentia I have discussed with, to be the only salvation of the country today. So I appeal to you and to the Prime Minister to give a serious thought to impose President's Rule immediately in all the States as stated above. This should be followed up with Martial Law being declared. This rule would last only until the next general elections after which the party voted into power by the people will naturally govern the country, Any delay to take firm action as indicated will only encourage anti-social elements and enemies of our democratic way of life to add "fuel to the fire" and to land our country in a state or a civil War bringing in its wake untold miseries and sufferings to our innocent millions - endangering our very existence as a free and independent prople of the largest democracy the World has ever known

...ance if the men... become a cockpit of ... entire civilised society, ...ucing ... barba... f the bygone days.

H... ...cally India was once a pivot of human civili... over the world conditioned their conduct upon India's pl... pleasure. That same India's opinion and advice does not m... today. India's protest notes to various International Sta... not the weight of the scrap of paper on which they are conveyed. The a... India's power has practically disappeared from the International Area.

This is basically all due to heavy depreciation in India's military strenght. India's friends and foes, all know it for certain the India's weakness. Plenty of sympathy, liberal loans, supply of food st... gifts of weapons, equipment, technical aid etc.etc. may create an illusion in the minds of the politicians and ignorant masses about the sincerity of so many nations towards India, but it hardly can satisfy a prudent statesman.

The real fact is that what India has, it is doubtful whether India will be able to face aggression if it comes to measuring strengh with any of the big powers in the event of any scrap or disagreement.

The only permanent solution for any country to maintain its international prestige and honour is to have proportionate military strength. This is what is required of India. India must prepare to become a strong military power right from today because it is not an overnight show: it takes decades to become strong.

India needs warrior statesmen like 'Churchil of England' to build up its military strength. Unfortunately whatever enlightened military experts India has are because of the dissuading conditions prevailing in the country not coming forward to enter politics. These refined gentlemen of outstanding calibre have spent their entire life in strict discipline and as such they are reluctant to rub shoulders with politicians of today who cross floors for material gain at the cost of material gain and parliamentary diginity. A few of the politicians who understand the need of the country and who would like to do things, are so much engrossed in their struggle to remain in power, as evident from the recent public show of syndicates and indicates that it is not likely any one of them would be able to do much even for decades to come.

The only solution under the circumstances is for the few enlightened persons to put their heads together and find out a remedy.

Nation looks forward expectantly at Generals like you who must come to the rescue of the country.

The public is sick of the present political turmoil, internal strife, and what not.

It is you who must review the peculiar situation and find out some solution.

I appeal your honour to please give your views on the subject.

I assure you, Sir, that this will be treated as strictly confidential and nothing will be made public or anything will be published without your specific permission in writing.